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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Comments of Edvard Kardelj

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1. Edvard Kardelj, Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, is reported to have praised Dean Acheson as the "most impressive and intelligent leader of foreign affairs in the world today." Kardelj expressed the hope that Acheson would find the solution to the China problem, the paramount issue in the world crisis.
2. Kardelj added: "I am forcing myself to be optimistic, although I realize the situation is extremely grim and dangerous as far as Yugoslavia is concerned. It is almost impossible for our small country to survive independently today, especially with the many internal difficulties facing us."
3. Kardelj also stated that his New Year's speech was made mainly for home consumption because we face great difficulties in teaching our people to understand the reasons for the change in our foreign policy and relations with the Big Powers. Unfortunately, Yugoslavia has too few men of executive ability and with sufficient experience. Even with peace, we anticipate two or three difficult years ahead."*
4. Concerning Soviet intentions toward Yugoslavia, Kardelj asserted: "the outlook is very bad. However, I do not believe the Soviets would risk a world war at this moment because of their weak position in Eastern Europe. Economic conditions in Bulgaria, for example, are even worse than in Yugoslavia. I am also doubtful whether the Soviets are able indefinitely to supply and equip huge Chinese forces and at the same time maintain and build up their own gigantic forces. In the near future the Soviet Union must decide whether it wants a strong China or a stronger USSR."
5. As to the possibility of a satellite attack on Yugoslavia, Kardelj said: "I do not think they will attack us. If they did, we could handle Bulgarians and Hungarians, and we can disregard the Rumanians and Albanians. But if the Soviets would participate actively in a satellite attack, it would create a grave and tragic situation for us."

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Comment: Kardelj is probably referring to difficulties encountered by Yugoslav leadership in indoctrinating Party personnel on the new pro-Western orientation and in rallying the rank and file of the Party membership behind the new program.

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